

Development Challenges, South-South Solutions October 2009 Issue

1) Ending Gang Violence While Cleaning the Streets in Haiti

The Caribbean nation of Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, with 80 percent of the population living below the poverty line (CIA World Factbook). The country had been enjoying some positive economic growth since 2005 after decades of economic and political turmoil.

The country's political vacuum and economic problems gave rise to violent gang rule on its streets and a collapse in public services, in particular garbage collection. The piles of waste became a source of disease and squalor as well as providing barricades for gangs to wage their street battles.

Haiti was also hit by four devastating hurricanes in 2008, with heavy damage to the country's agricultural sector and transport infrastructure.

But a project by UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (<http://ssc.undp.org/Home.118.0.html>) has turned around a Haitian neighbourhood by simultaneously cleaning up the garbage, creating employment and income and reducing gang violence and despair. The United Nations has been working in Haiti to restore the economy and bring peace and good government to the country since the 1990s. Its most recent mission, MINUSTAH (<http://minustah.org/>), has been running since 2004.

Called 'Love n' Haiti' and located in the Carrefour-Feuilles district (<http://www.maplandia.com/haiti/ouest/carrefour-feuilles/>) of the capital Port-au-Prince, the project used a ground-up strategy to tackle the problem of waste removal.

"I know we have a bad image. But the violence is going down in my neighbourhood," said Gislène La Salle, a widow and a mother of six from Carrefour-Feuilles, to the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS).

"But when the security situation deteriorated sharply, I could not work in the streets. Luckily, six months ago, I found work in this project. Now, life is more stable. I have a regular income," she said.

"The money I earn allows me to feed my family better and send three of my six children to school."

The neighbourhood has a population of 150,000. Nine community leaders were identified and a management committee set up called the Comité d'Action Sanitaire de Carrefour Feuilles (CASCAF). The management committee then undertook difficult negotiations with local street vendors to establish garbage collection points. A waste collection plan was drawn up, and around 400 workers were hired to clean the streets and canals and collect the waste.

The workers were divided up into nine street cleaning teams and three waste collection teams, comprising people who were members of rival groups.

The project started in 2006 from a very basic point: generating awareness in the population about the dangers of waste and the need for it to be disposed of. The breakdown in public services from decades of political turmoil and poverty had meant a culture of waste disposal no longer existed. The project drew on similar experiences in Brazil and used Brazilian expertise.

A triage (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business_Triage) centre was set up to sort the waste into paper, plastic, metal, glass and organic matter for recycling. Two products are made from the waste to earn income: cooking briquettes and fertilizer.

The cooking briquettes may also help stem Haiti's horrific deforestation. The country shares its island with the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean, and anyone flying over the island can see a sharp dividing line between the green and lush forests of the Dominican Republic and the almost-barren and dusty Haitian hills.

By turning the trash into cooking briquettes, people are being offered an alternative to chopping down the forests and burning trees to make charcoal fuel for cooking.

Income for the waste collectors has increased to US \$3 a day and the project has removed 70 percent of the neighbourhood's waste, making it easier to get around and get things done (another boost to incomes).

Georginette is also a widow. Like Gislène, this mother of seven is thrilled to find a regular job. "Earlier, only three of my seven children went to school. Many children from the neighbourhood roamed the streets. But since November 2007 when I began working here, I can afford to send five," she said.

Prior to the project, the neighbourhood was one of the most dangerous in Port-au-Prince. The project unexpectedly found the history of violence and conflict were quickly overcome when the project began to make quick progress.

Collecting the waste now earns an income for 380 families. And by gravitating community leadership to nonviolent leaders, relationships between people and groups improved.

The 50 waste collection points and public garbage bins now contribute to a reduction in common diseases that are rife in other parts of Haiti: leptospirosis, worms, canicola fever, tetanus, yellow fever, typhoid, dengue, and malaria.

Originally, the government of Haiti appealed to the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Trust Fund) (http://www.indianembassy.org/newsite/press_release/2007/Sept/17.asp) to get to grips with the woeful garbage collection in the capital, while tackling the violence in the slums and lack of economic opportunity.

The project is also a partnership between Port-au-Prince's city hall, the Ministry of Public Works and other government ministries, Quisqueya University, UNDP Haiti, IBSA, and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. The project is run on the ground by UNDP Haiti.

Where once the trash made flooding worse by blocking canals, having it removed has prevented the stew of waste that was produced when floods occurred.

"Impressed by the positive results so far, the Haitian government would like to replicate this model in other regions of the country," said Eliana Nicolini, the UNDP project coordinator.

It is hoped the project can be scaled up to reach across Haiti and even be replicated in other countries. The UN Special Envoy for Haiti, former US President Bill Clinton, has been drafted in to help with raising funds for expanding the project.

The Love n' Haiti project has been selected by the BBC's World Challenge contest, which invites the general public to vote for which project they think is the best. Voting takes place on their website: www.theworldchallenge.co.uk. The project is number eight in the list on the website.

"It is not easy to choose who to hire in a place where so many are desperately in need of work. Many people beg us for work but we don't have vacancies at the moment. If we can hire even 100 more persons, it would solve a lot of problems," said Patrick Massenat, a local youth heading a committee created to implement activities contributing to waste management and to ensure effective involvement of governmental institutions.

"Most people in this area never knew real work. Now, they have experienced it. They also have families. The area is cleaner; the women who lost their husbands in gang wars and police firing are happier. It's a beginning."

LINKS:

1) A Bangladesh case study on social entrepreneurs turning refuse into wealth. **Website:** <http://proxied.changemakers.net/journal/01may/index.cfm>

2) The Ethical Super Store has a wide range of recycled shopping bags and hand bags made to Fair Trade standards. **Website:** <http://www.ethicalsuperstore.com/search/bag/recycled.htm>

3) A collective of women in the slums of Delhi, India sell fashionable recycled shopping bags online. **Website:** <http://www.theindiashop.co.uk/>

4) Proyecto Alcatraz (Project Alcatraz): This Venezuelan project offers violent gang members the opportunity to go straight and make their way into the economic mainstream with real job opportunities and skills. **Website:** http://www.proyectoalcatraz.org/home_eng.php

2) **Growing a Southern Brand to Global Success: The Olam Story**

Most people haven't heard of Olam International, but they know the brands they work for and they more than likely eat their produce. The story of Olam (www.olamonline.com) – a global food supply company in 'agri-products' that got its start in Nigeria – shows how a Southern brand can grow and go global, and overcome the difficulties of cross-border trade.

Olam supplies well-known global food brands including Cadbury (chocolate), Nestle, Lavazza (coffee), Mars (chocolate), Tchibo and Planters (peanuts).

Olam not only survived its startup in Nigeria, it has thrived, trading around Africa and across the globe, becoming a major supplier to the world's top food brands.

The quantity of agri-products harvested in the world is 5.2 billion metric tonnes. In that market, Olam is a significant producer of cashews, peanuts, spices, beans, coffee, cocoa, sheanuts, packaged foods, rice, wheat, barley, sugar, cotton, wood, and rubber. It is already the world's largest supplier of cashew nuts and sesame nuts and in the top three for peanuts. Olam's cashew business in Africa provides work for 17,000 people, 95 percent of whom are women.

Olam also uses its success to play a critical role in securing the world's food supply and has specialized in meeting the food needs of the world's rapidly growing population, especially in China and India. Between 2001 and 2007, annual increases in the global consumption of agricultural commodities were larger than during the 1980s and 1990s. Higher incomes are leading to higher consumption of proteins like meat. And as meat demand rises, so does the demand for grain and protein feeds to produce the meat. It takes two kilograms of grain to produce one kilogram of chicken, four kilograms of produce for one kilogram of pork, and eight kilograms of produce for one kilogram of beef.

Chris Brett, Olam's senior vice president and head of corporate social responsibility and sustainability, said the company tries to blend business success with wider social goals.

"We are one of the few businesses investing in rural environments and am tackling the problem of urbanization," said Brett in Olam's London office - the company's global headquarters is in Singapore.

In 2008, it won the World Business Development Award for its contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
(<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>).

Olam also has been recognized for its contribution to global food security. By providing farmers with credit to help build their communities, it has also been able to revive declining rural economies and help stem the outflow of farmers to the big cities and urban slums.

"Many countries are afraid to lend to farmers," Brett said. "We gather the farmers together in groups of 500 and Olam manages the loan while a local bank receives the money. Defaults have been low and farmers are building up a credit rating. In this way, farming becomes a business not just a subsistence existence."

The dramatic changes taking place in African countries – especially rapid urbanization that has made the continent home to 25 of the world's fastest growing cities (International Institute for Environment and Development) – means there is an urgent need to increase food production and stabilize rural economies to support farming.

Olam International, started in 1989 in Nigeria by its India-born CEO Sonny George Verghese has many lessons for any Southern entrepreneurs who have their sights set high.

After developing its skills in exporting cashew nuts from Nigeria, Olam moved into cotton, cocoa and sheanuts. From 1993 to 1995, the company explored ways of taking their skills into other countries and different products. It was a period of rapid expansion into other African countries including Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Senegal.

Olam now operates in 26 African countries.

There has been a renaissance in South-South trade in recent years before the current economic crisis, growing by an average of 13 percent per year between 1995 and 2007. By 2007, South-South trade made up 20 percent of world trade.

Olam started with one product, got its supply right, and then started looking around and seeing what other products and services it could offer, applying already-tested expertise and supply skills - what the company calls the 'Olam DNA'.

Olam claims its success has come from building strong relationships with farmers to guarantee high standards for the food products. The company does this by tightly tracking its stock and its quality. Olam then uses the information to analyze risks to the supply network. The company also keeps both warehouses and field managers close to the farmers. Olam estimates 65 percent of its profit comes from managing the journey from farmer's field to factory gate.

Its selling point to customers is the ability to guarantee the entire journey from farmer's field to factory gate, taking on all the risk and stress for ensuring the product is of the right standard and delivered on time.

Its niche is to provide the food products required by some of the world's top food brands. The company has grown from just one product in Nigeria and two employees in 1989, to directly employing over 10,000 people worldwide and supplying 20 products in 60 countries, according to Brett. He says the company, which had a total 2008 turnover of US \$5.75 billion, was "born out of Africa."

Brett says the company is now is "investing heavily in Africa in processing and distribution centres" - proof that a success story feeds back into more success and investment. It has been able to use its profits to go back and buy up failing businesses and former state-run enterprises, and modernize them. Olam now grows the food, processes it, and transports it to market.

Olam actively works with international donors, global NGOs like Technoserve (farmer business development), WWF (environmental impact of supply chain), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (cocoa and cashew farmers).

Olam, however, has received criticisms for its past practices. The global environmental group Greenpeace attacked its logging in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/tags/olam>), and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) divested its holdings from Olam for it trading illegally cut timber.

Olam and the Gates Foundation project are working with 200,000 cocoa farmers in West Africa to double their incomes. In Ghana, cocoa farming has become synonymous with poverty and perceived as an occupation of last resort. The work force is rapidly aging and the industry will die out if it doesn't become more profitable and attractive to young people.

"We want the farmers to be profitable, the transporters to be profitable," Brett said. "We believe a supply chain does not work if one player takes too much."

And what advice does Olam have for budding food producers and growers? "Catchy, simple brands work. Our Mama Mia pasta caught the wave of the Abba revival."

"Our Tasty Tom brand became very popular in Africa so we extended the brand into other products than just tomato paste. You reduce the cost of advertising by extending the brand name."

"We feel SMEs (small, medium enterprises) growth is critical because it would give us more support. If more people invested in SMEs, we would have more people to do business with. We want to be able to make deals: they could be entrepreneurs."

"If you can add extra value it costs nothing but time."

Brett advises budding SMEs: "It's all about quality: trust and shared business ethics like formal contracts. When you have those, the bigger brands will give you support."

LINKS:

- 1) Brandchannel: Packed with resources and contacts to help businesses intelligently build their brand. **Website:** www.brandchannel.com
- 2) Branding Strategy Insider: This blog provides advice and case studies on how to build trust for your brand. **Website:** www.brandingstrategyinsider.com
- 3) Growing Inclusive Markets, a new web portal from UNDP packed with case studies, heat maps and strategies on how to use markets to help the poor. **Website:** www.growinginclusivemarkets.org
- 4) Starting a SME (small, medium enterprise): This website is packed with advice and tips for starting a small business and how to grow it with limited resources. **Website:** <http://www.smallbusiness.co.uk/>
- 5) World Business Fair: The World Business Fair is an international trade platform for global entrepreneurs and professionals. **Website:** <http://www.worldbusinessfair.com/>

3) Avoiding Wasting Food and Human Potential with ICTs

Creative use of information technology in the South is helping to address two very different kinds of waste – of food and of human and community potential.

In Ghana, a mobile phone-driven Internet marketplace is helping to improve efficiencies in farming and selling food. Another initiative is addressing the crisis in India's villages by drawing on the diaspora of former villagers now living in urban environments around the world.

Finding ways to efficiently trade food is crucial to keeping hunger at bay and meeting the needs of growing populations. In a report earlier this year, the UN's Environment Programme (UNEP) found that more than half of the world's food is wasted or discarded.

"There is evidence ... that the world could feed the entire projected population growth alone by becoming more efficient," said Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, at the launch of The Environmental Food Crisis: The Environment's Role in Averting Future Food Crises.

Ghana is a country that has already gained a reputation as an IT leader in West Africa (www.ghanaictawards.com). Now a clever technology based in the capital, Accra, is using mobile phones to connect farmers and agricultural businesses and associations to the marketplace. By using SMS (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMS>) text messages, information from the field is gathered and collated. This can include tracking what is happening on the farm, how crops are surviving the weather, and the status of food inventories day-by-day. All the data is collected by the TradeNet website and displayed with prices and deadlines for buyers and sellers to get in touch with each other. This reduces the time and cost involved in gathering updates from thousands of people across the country.

Launched in 2007, the service recently won the Information Communication Technology innovations contest by the World Summit Award (WAS) (<http://www.wsis-award.org/about/index.wbp>) of the United Nations' World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).

TradeNet is currently collating market data from 13 countries and proclaims itself the largest SMS-based market information service on the continent of Africa. It has more than 12,000 registered users and covers 500 individual markets.

The service's full name is TradeNet: Market Information on your Mobile (<http://www.tradenet.biz/?lang=en>), and it tracks products like ground nuts, sesame, tomato, maize and white beans. It offers market information from Afghanistan , Benin , Burkina Faso , Cameroon , Cote d'Ivoire , Ghana , Madagascar , Mali , Mozambique , Nigeria , Sudan and Togo.

Founded by its chief executive officer Mark Davies, TradeNet is run out of the internet start-up incubator Busy Lab (<http://www.busylab.com/>) in Accra. Busy Lab specializes in building mobile web solutions for companies and projects involved in rural media and computing.

While in India, villages are in crisis: As India's economy has boomed, its small towns and villages have withered. Home to the majority of the country's population, they are suffering declining populations and high suicide rates. India's urban slums are where people are going; they are growing 250 percent faster than the country's population. Yet so many people share some past connection with the country's 260,000 ailing villages.

And while the world has become a majority urban place, it is acknowledged the future for the environment and agriculture rests in the health of villages.

The social media website Mana Vuru (www.manavuru.com) seeks to connect people living in cities with the villages they were born in, or where their families came from. It is about restoring the broken connection with the village in order to enhance their future development.

As Mana Vuru declares: "Villages form the backbone of our economy. True progress, growth and prosperity can only be realized when villages become self-sustainable."

The site points out that "most villages are suffering from crippling infrastructure and some even lack the basic amenities like electricity and fresh water. We believe that every person who migrated to greener pastures and attained success and wealth should feel some sort of moral responsibility and do their bit for their respective villages."

A project of the Palette School of Multimedia (<http://www.palettemultimedia.com/>) in Hyderabad – one of India's technology hubs – the site lets former village dwellers register and start meeting and connecting with fellow members of the diaspora. Together they can network to help the village address its development challenges.

LINKS:

1) A video story by CNN on Tradenet. **Website:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6z0ywkHPPQ>

2) BOP Source is a platform for companies and individuals at the BOP (bottom of the pyramid) to directly communicate, ultimately fostering close working relationships, and for NGOs and companies to dialogue and form mutually valuable public-private partnerships that serve the BOP.

Website: <http://bopsource.ning.com/>

3) Afriville is a Web 2.0 service and an African Caribbean social network. Afriville is a community website along the lines of the famous MySpace. Users are free to message and post profiles. The difference is that the user is able to choose how closed or open the networks are. The site features a state of the art music management system which allows African and Caribbean artists to get straight in touch with their fans.

Website: www.afriville.com

4) Business Action for Africa: Business Action for Africa is an international network of businesses and business organisations from Africa and elsewhere, coming together in support of three objectives: to positively influence policies for growth and poverty reduction, to promote a more balanced view of Africa, and to develop and showcase good business practice in Africa

Website: www.businessactionforafrica.org

5) Model Village India: An innovative concept to rejuvenate India's villages and build economies and self-reliance. **Website:**
<http://www.modelvillageindia.org.in/index1.html>

4) African Ingenuity Attracting Interest

The tide of science and innovation from the South is grabbing the world's attention. While the big giants of India, China and Brazil are well-established hubs of invention, it is the once-overlooked continent of Africa that is generating current excitement. The atmosphere can be equated to the flush of innovation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as inventors tackled the budding new technologies of the combustion engine, flight, electricity and radio waves. These days, it's the challenges of development, rapid urbanization and finding ways to 'hack' (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hack_%28technology%29), like adapting existing technology such as mobile phones or bicycles to new purposes.

That previous period of invention had a spirit of pioneering and making-do, of dreams and adaptability triumphing over poverty, and it laid the path for many new companies to sprout up and create wealth and jobs for millions. At this August's Maker Faire Africa gathering (<http://makerfaireafrica.com/>) in Accra, Ghana, African pioneers in grassroots innovation offered inspiring inventions.

The rapid changes happening in African countries – especially the tilt to having a larger urban population than a rural one – means there is an urgent need to boost incomes.

Handled right, these grassroots inventors could grow to become part of the already expanding South-South trade, which grew by an average of 13 percent per year between 1995 and 2007, to make up 20 percent of world trade.

Inspired by the US magazine Make (<http://makezine.com/>) - a do-it-yourself technology magazine written by makers of computers, electronics and robotics - the first Maker Faire gathering was held in 2006 in the San Francisco area of the United States.

The African Maker Faire modelled itself on this approach and has tapped into Africa's well-entrenched do-it-yourself development culture. It went looking for more inventors like those celebrated on the website AfriGadget (<http://www.afrigadget.com/>), with its projects that solve "everyday problems with African ingenuity." The Faire works with the participants to share their ideas and to find ways to make money from their ideas.

The Faire in Accra ran in parallel with the International Development Design Summit (<http://2009.iddsummit.org/>), which came to Ghana from its home at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (<http://web.mit.edu/>) in the United States. Its aim was to bring technology closer to "potential end users of the projects."

"It is part of the revolution in design that aims to create equity in the distribution of research and development resources by focusing on the needs of the world's poor," organizers said.

This spirit of African invention is about breaking the perception that invention is a purely Northern phenomenon that requires complex and expensive materials. African ingenuity is about taking whatever is available and tackling common problems. It is an empowering approach that celebrates local initiative and seeks to find ways to turn these inventions into sustainable incomes.

"What's different about African mechanics and gadgets is that it's generally made with much fewer, and more basic, materials," said Afrigadget founder Erik Hersman. "Where you might find a story on how to make hi-tech robots at home in Make, its counterpart in Africa might be how to create a bicycle out of wood. No less ingenuity needed, but far more useful for an African's everyday life."

The African Maker Faire featured a wide range of solutions, from a low-power radio station to a bicycle-powered saw and a simple corn planter.

Shamsudeen Napara, from northern Ghana, brought a US \$10 corn planter that looks like a pill dispenser to help speed up crop planting. He also has invented a cheap shea nut (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shea_butter) roaster. These inventions are cooked up in his metal fabrication shop which builds tools for agricultural use. Shea nut processing is a lucrative task for women in Northern Ghana. Napara's roaster costs US \$40 and reduces the energy and time to process the nuts. He has also made a soap cutter using piano wires and guitar screws.

Bernard Kiwia, a bicycle mechanic from Arusha, Tanzania, is a pioneer working with windmills, water pumps, mobile phone chargers and pedal-powered hacksaws – all made from old bike parts.

Hayford Bempong, David Celestin and Michael Amankwanor from Accra Polytechnic (<http://www.accrapolytechnic.edu.gh/>), built a low-power radio station. Made from scrap electronic parts and an antenna from copper pipe, the radio was put straight to use to broadcast announcements at the event over a range of a few thousand metres.

Suprio Das, Killian Deku, Laura Stupin and Bernard Kiwia brought a method to produce chlorine from salt water and other common materials. It can then be used to purify water. Their method can clean vast quantities of water using no moving parts (avoiding breakdowns). It does this by dripping chlorine into the water until a level has been reached, and then the purified water is released. By using a 5 litre bag of chlorine, and a US \$3 valve, 100,000 litres of water can be purified.

Electricity was also being made using low-cost batteries from aluminum cans and plastic water bottles. Applying salt water as an electrolyte (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrolyte>), electricity is created by the oxidation of the aluminum can - a cheaper approach and less toxic than commercial batteries.

A group called Afrobotics (www.afrobotics.com) gave a presentation to encourage more African students to go into engineering, science and technology. Afrobotics is set up as a competition to "fuel engineering, science, innovation, and entrepreneurship on the African continent, utilizing robotics." They have some excellent videos of African robots in action: <http://www.afrobotics.com/videos>.

LINKS:

1) Fab Labs: Like the futuristic "replicator" in the TV show Star Trek, Fab Labs allow people to design and produce what they need there and then. The labs are mushrooming throughout the South as people get the innovation bug. The Fab Lab program is part of the MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms (CBA) which broadly explores how the content of information relates to its physical representation. **Website:** <http://fab.cba.mit.edu/>

2) [id21 Insights](http://www.id21.org/insights/insights68/art00.html): A series of articles by the UK 's Institute of Development Studies on how to make technology and science relevant to the needs of the poor. **Website:** <http://www.id21.org/insights/insights68/art00.html>

3) [eMachineShop](http://www.emachineshop.com/): This remarkable service allows budding inventors to download free design software, design their invention, and then have it made in any quantity they wish and shipped to them: Amazing! **Website:** <http://www.emachineshop.com/>

4) The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognised quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design. **Website:** www.red-dot.de

5) Institute for the Future: It identifies emerging trends that will transform global society and the global marketplace. It provides insight into business strategy, design process, innovation, and social dilemmas. Its website helps budding inventors to identify new areas of invention. **Website:** <http://www.iftf.org/>

5) Toilet Malls Make Going Better

Across the global South, clever entrepreneurs are transforming services that were bare-bones, grim and out-of-date into modern facilities packed with features that help to pay for their operation. In Kenya, an entrepreneur has used this approach to transform the poor quality of public toilets.

Public sanitation is essential for good health and a high quality of life. Around the world, more than 2.6 billion people, or 41 percent of the world's population, are without access to basic sanitation. As a result, most have to make do and defecate or urinate wherever they can. In crowded urban areas, the result is an unpleasant source of disease and filth that fouls living spaces and sickens or kills many people.

Nairobi's slums are notorious for so-called 'flying toilets' or 'scud missiles': plastic bags filled with excrement that act as the only toilet available for many. Half the population also has no access to clean water. It has been estimated these appalling conditions contribute to up to 50 percent of health problems for slum dwellers.

The Iko Toilet started by David Kuria first came to life in Nairobi's central business district.

"What we saw in the last 10 years, the few public toilets that existed were in very poor shape," he told CNN. "In fact they had been taken over by the street boys, and they were a point for mugging and drug trafficking. With that background we needed some sort of social transformation. For people to gain the confidence that you could have a public toilet which is clean which is safe and you can go in and come out the same way."

The solution was "toilet malls," complete with a range of on-site micro businesses to make going to the public toilet attractive. Apart from music and radio to listen to, there is a shoe shining service, snack bars selling fruit and water, and even banking services. The idea is that the micro businesses pay for the upkeep and cleaning of the toilet. And their presence also keeps the toilets safe because there is always somebody around.

While the concept was pioneered in the business district, it is now moving out into Nairobi's slums. So far, Kuria has completed 12 toilets in Nairobi and has another 18 under development. He is also rolling out the toilets to other parts of the country. He receives the plots of land from local municipalities and his company, Ecotact, builds the toilets.

It costs five Kenyan shillings (US .07 cents) to use the toilets.

Kuria had become frustrated with the city council's inability to provide clean and safe public toilets.

"I thought for some time before coming up with the idea," he told The Nation. "People had nowhere to go and thugs were holding them to ransom in the few facilities then run by the council."

Kuria said people are leaving good comments about the toilets and say it makes them proud to be Kenyan.

The cost to build a toilet is Sh 2 million (US \$26,000) and the toilet is managed by Kuria for five years. At the end of the contract, he will hand them over to the local council.

"We are getting support from UNDP and other partners like East African Breweries, the Global Water International and the Rotary International," he said.

An architect by training, Kuria is hoping to employ more than 1,000 people by the end of this year. So far 120 people work for the Iko Toilets. Like so many others, he is also affected by chronic water shortages.

"We are worried because when there is scarcity of water, we are forced to buy it at an additional cost," he said.

Private vendors currently provide the water for the toilet malls.

Iko Toilets are so successful they have made it into the 'Hall of Fame' at the World Toilet Organization (<http://www.worldtoilet.org/>). Kuria was also winner of the World Economic Forum's Africa Entrepreneur of the Year award earlier this year.

And his ambitions extend beyond Kenya.

"We also want to go to other countries. Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa have already approached me for Iko Toilets," he said.

LINKS:

1) World Toilet Organization: The global non-profit organization committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions. **Website:** www.worldtoilet.org

2) World Toilet College: Established in 2005, the World Toilet College (WTC) started as a social enterprise, with the belief that there is a need for an independent world body to ensure the best practices and standards in toilet design, cleanliness, and sanitation technologies are adopted and disseminated through training. **Website:** <http://www.worldtoilet.org/ourwork3.asp>

3) Official website for the 2008 International Year of Sanitation. **Website:** <http://esa.un.org/iys/>

4) Waste has expert knowledge on domestic solid and liquid waste management and sanitation issues. Its website offers a comparison of designs and methods for toilets. **Website:** <http://www.ecosan.nl/page/353>

5) A set of photos on Flickr of the Iko toilets. **Website:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wateradvocates/3306962447/>

Window on the World

Africa Connect: Undersea Cables to Drive an African Broadband Boom by Dearbhla McHenry, Publisher: Pyramid Research. **Website:** http://www.pyramidresearch.com/store/ins_ame_090821.htm?sc=HP_IAME1.6

Unknown Soldier Vol. 1: The Haunted House by Joshua Dysart, Publisher: Vertigo. A comic about a pacifist doctor caught up in the violence of Northern Uganda in 2002. **Website:**
http://www.dccomics.com/vertigo/graphic_novels/?qn=12182

European Information Technology Observatory (EITO) The latest report on global mobile phone users finds users have grown from 3.9 billion in 2008 to 4.4 billion in 2009 – an increase of 12 percent. **Website:**
http://www.eito.com/pressinformation_20090807.htm

Development 2.0: the (real) world is not enough, Publisher: World Bank Blog. **Website:** <http://psdblog.worldbank.org/psdblog/2009/08/development-20-the-real-world-is-not-enough-1.html>

Who Owns Our Low Carbon Future? Intellectual Property and Energy Technologies, by Bernice Lee, Ilian Iliev, and Felix Preston, Publisher: Chatham House. **Website:**
http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14699_r0909_lowcarbonfuture.pdf

Securing the Promise of Nanotechnologies: Towards Transatlantic Regulatory Cooperation by Linda Breggin, Robert Falkner, Nico Jaspers, John Pendergrass and Read Porter, Publisher: Chatham House. **Website:**
http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/14692_r0909_nanotechnologies.pdf

The ICT4D 2.0 Manifesto: Where Next for ICTs and International Development by Richard Heeks, Publisher: Development Informatics Group (Development Informatics: Working Paper Series, Paper No. 42, 2009). **Website:**
<http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/research/publications/wp/di/index.htm>

Getting it Right: Understanding Livelihoods to Reduce the Vulnerability of Pastoral Communities, Publisher: Humanitarian Policy Group. **Website:**
www.odi.org.uk/hpg

Policy Ownership and Aid Conditionality in the Light of the Financial Crisis: A Critical Review, Publisher: OECD. **Website:**
<http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&st1=412009041P1&LANG=EN>

World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change, Publisher: World Bank. **Website:**
<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2010/0,,menuPK:5287748~pagePK:64167702~piPK:64167676~theSitePK:5287741,00.html>

Globalization and Egalitarian Redistribution, edited by Pranab Bardhan, Samuel Bowles and Michael Wallerstein, Publisher: Oxford University Press. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Economic Development in Africa Report 2009, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute. **Website:**

<http://www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/CCRG.pdf?emc=el&m=282477&l=8&v=4ee3e8e625>

Ambitious Entrepreneurship, High-growth Firms and Macroeconomic Growth

by Eric Stam, Chantal Hartog, Andre van Stel and Roy Thurik, Publisher: Scales: Scientific Analysis of Entrepreneurship and SMEs. **Website:**

http://www.entrepreneurship-sme.eu/sys/cftags/assetnow/design/widgets/site/ctm_getFile.cfm?file=H200911.pdf&perId=0

Regional Atlas on West Africa, Publisher: OECD Publishing. This Atlas is both a driver and the result of strategic thinking on regional integration in West Africa. Containing maps, statistics and analyses, it describes the West African region, its population, settlement, territories, its economy and its vulnerabilities. It analyses the developments and the ways in which West Africa is conforming to a constantly changing global environment. **Website:** www.oecdbookshop.org

October

Global Forum on Local Development

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (12-16 October 2009)

The new wave of decentralization since 1990 is based on the rediscovery of the "local dimension" of development, and the related recognition of local government's potential role and added value in promoting local development and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Local development is a complex multi-actor process comprising households, communities, local and national governments. While local governments are not the only entities promoting local development, they are increasingly key players at the forefront of delivering local development outcomes. Sponsors: UNCDF

Website: www.dpwg-lgd.org/cms/upload/pdf/NL-3-12-2008.pdf

Nominate (or apply to be) a 2009 Pop!Tech Social Innovation Fellow

Camden, Maine, USA (21-24 October 2009)

You know you want to be a Pop!Tech Fellow. Or you know someone who will want to be. Think you have what it takes to join this select company?

Pop!Tech just announced its selection process for up to 15 next-generation world-changing people who are incubating new approaches to some of the world's toughest challenges. Fellows participate in an all-expenses-paid, multi-day intensive development program focused on insights, tools and skills for accelerating and scaling "big bet" innovations in areas like healthcare, energy, development, mobile technology, climate, education, and civic engagement, among others. Fellows receive world-class training in areas like branding, design, measuring impact, media relations, social/Web2.0 media, finance, leadership, digital storytelling and organizational development. These sessions are led by remarkable leaders in these areas.

Website: www.poptech.org/nominate/

European Development Days 2009

Stockholm, Sweden (22-24 October 2009)

Yearly event hosted jointly by the European Commission and the EU Presidency. The European Development Days bring some 4,000 people and 1500 organisations from the development community together on an equal footing. Delegates from 125 countries are represented, including heads of state and leading world figures, Nobel prize winners among them. The event aims to make development aid more effective, to build a global coalition against poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through frank and sometimes controversial debates on pressing issues, such as governance, poverty and environmental sustainability, the European Development Days provide unprecedented opportunities for sharing ideas and launching innovative partnerships.

Website: www.eudevdays.eu

OECD 3rd World Forum: Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life

Busan, Korea (27-30 October 2009)

The next World Forum, focused on **Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life** will attract some 1,500 high level participants with a mixture of politicians and policy makers, opinion leaders, Nobel laureates, statisticians, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society from over 130 countries.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/chqjll>

CSR Asia Summit 2009

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (27-28 October 2009)

With the theme "Sustainable Business as the Road to Recovery", the Summit will explore key CSR issues and strategies in Asia to demonstrate leadership in times of turbulence.

Website: <http://www.csr-asia.com/summit09/>

November

Second International Conference Multinational Enterprises and Sustainable Development: Strategies for Sustainable Technologies and Innovations

Nancy, France (4-6 November 2009)

The 2009 MESD Conference focuses on the issue of Strategies for Sustainable Technologies and Innovations. This event is designed for management scholars, economists, lawyers, sociologists and those in relevant engineering fields. It encourages participants to consider and share potential answers to questions such as why, when and how innovative and strategic technological choices will be made and deployed. It also compares worldwide corporate policies and best practices.

Website: www.mesd2009.org/

5th International Microinsurance Conference

Dakar, Senegal (3-5 Nov 2009)

This event is hosted by the Microinsurance Network (formerly the CGAP Working Group on Microinsurance), the Munich Re Foundation, supported by the Conference Interafricaine des Marches d'Assurances (CIMA), the African Insurance Organisation (AIO), the Fédération des Sociétés d'Assurances de Droit National Africaines (FANAF), the World Bank, the Journal of Risk and Insurance, GTZ and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/mtgzfq>

3rd Annual International Conference on Business and Sustainability

Portland, Oregon, USA (5-6 November 2009)

How can sustainability inspire creative solutions? Innovative approaches? New ways of solving economic, social and environmental challenges? The theme of this year's conference is regenerate. In the midst of a difficult economic time sustainability provides both an ethos and an operating principle for deriving new methods to revitalize our organizations and societies. Through the lens of regenerate, a series of presentations, interactive case study sessions and keynote addresses during this two day event will provide immediate value to those seeking ideas for sustainability-focused inspiration and implementation in their organizations.

Website: <http://www.sba.pdx.edu/sustainabilityconference09/>

Carbon Markets Africa 2009

CapeTown, South Africa (10-11 November 2009)

Carbon Markets Africa 2009 is well placed to lead discussions pre-COP15 and will offer delegates and speakers alike an international stage to debate what Africa will bring to the Copenhagen negotiations and what the shape of its future carbon market will be. Following on from the success of last year's event, the 3rd Annual Carbon Markets Africa will showcase the current CDM business opportunities in Africa and will look to establish Africa's path to generating a robust and sizeable carbon market.

The event will create a platform for CDM project hosts to interact with the key players in the carbon markets value chain to deliver a progressive plan of action for a potentially substantial carbon market. In the global sphere, Africa is underrepresented in the generation of CERs; it has fallen behind the overwhelming dominant CDM project leader, Asia.

Website: <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=CM0911ZA>

Social and Political Dimensions of the Global Crisis: Implications for Developing Countries

Geneva, Switzerland (12-13 November 2009)

The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) will host an international conference in Geneva to better understand the social and political dimensions of the current crisis and subsequent policy and institutional reforms, and their implications for developing countries. In addition, the conference will provide an opportunity to identify key issues for future research in this field.

Website:

www.networkideas.org/events/jun2009/UNRISD_Conference_2009.pdf

Impact of the Base-of-the-Pyramid Ventures

Delft, Netherlands (16-18 November 2009)

The purpose of this conference is to increase BoP knowledge on value creation and impact assessments by bringing together keynote speakers and delegates from business, academia, NGOs and the public sector. The conference will provide a platform to share conceptual and empirical evidences that address ways to better understand and increase the sustainability impacts of BoP ventures in terms of changes in economic, capacity, environmental and relational well-being.

Website: <http://www.bopimpact.nl/>

Clean Energy Expo Asia 2009

Singapore (18-20 November 2009)

Clean Energy Expo Asia is a trading and knowledge-sharing platform bringing together the leading players in the Technology, Services, Finance and Government sector to address key issues in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region.

Website: www.cleanenergyexpoasia.com

4th Sustainability Summit: Asia 2009, Winning Strategies for a Sustainable World

New Delhi, India (25-26 November 2009)

The compelling mix of high energy prices, natural resources constrain, environmental degradation, the have and have-nots divide, terrorism and militancy, financial crisis, governance inefficiencies, failure of capitalism, is inducing the need for transformational change to arrest further damage. The Summit is focused on how visionary businesses and institutions are turning crisis into opportunity to change our world into one that is sustainable and all inclusive. The Summit has been designed to provide real-world experience taking participants through the experience of ideating to transformation through action. It provides a diversity of winning experiences in the two days, because it enriches the learning, creating a stronger participation experience.

Website: www.sustainabledevelopment.in/

The Global Conference 2009

Eauville, France (26-28 November 2009)

The Global Conference brings together political figures, business leaders, scientists, opinion-makers and the media in a special environment in order to discuss on the vital stakes of sustainable development, challenge points of view and initiate common solutions. Four hundred participants will take part in this gathering and enrich the debates with their experience.

Website: www.planetworkshops.org/en

December

e-Asia 2009

Colombo, Sri Lanka (2-4 December 2009)

eAsia 2009 is the annual international Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for development event with the objective of reinforcing technology and knowledge-centric growth and needs of Asia vis-à-vis Sri

Lanka, through capitalisation of market economy and boosting human development.

Website: <http://www.e-asia.org/2009/index.asp>

University of Cambridge Business and Poverty Leadership Seminars 2009

Cambridge, UK (6-9 December 2009)

These seminars offer a unique opportunity for business leaders to understand the risks and opportunities of working in developing countries and emerging economies. They are designed to develop business skills in these markets and provide guidance and inspiration to develop the next generation of business that creates more equitable wealth.

Website: www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk/poverty

COP 15 Copenhagen

Copenhagen, Denmark (7-18 December 2009)

The sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are open to Parties of the Convention and Observer States (Governments), the United Nations System and observer organizations duly admitted by the Conference of the Parties.

Website: <http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/4749.php>

2010

February

Clear Profit 9/10: The Annual Forum for Responsible Investors and Investees: CALL FOR PAPERS

London, UK (25 February 2010)

Clear Profit's 4th annual conference is being designed to provide a fresh perspective on key challenges faced by responsible investors and investees. Attendees have included leading figures in responsible investment and corporate responsibility, NGO finance and campaign professionals, and senior policy makers. For the first time the conference will offer multiple streams, allowing delegates the chance to consider a wide range of topics in breakaway round table sessions. As a basis for building the programme, we would like to invite potential speakers to make a session proposal. Just two or three paragraphs will do. If you would like to make such a proposal, register your interest in attending, or find out more about the benefits of sponsoring, please email event@clear-profit.com

Website: <http://www.clear-profit.com/events.html>

March

World Urban Forum 5

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (22-26 March 2010)

In the space of a few short years, the World Urban Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities. The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Website: <http://mirror.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

Globe 2010

Vancouver, BC, Canada (24-26 March 2010)

This series of events is dedicated to bringing together professionals from the environment sector. Every two years, corporate executives, government representatives, environmental senior managers, urban planners and financial executives meet to discuss emerging priorities and opportunities in the business of the environment. GLOBE 2010 will host 12,000 participants, 2,200 conference delegates, 500 exhibitors, 200 speakers and dozens of international delegations from over 70 countries. The Conference will focus on major themes such as Corporate Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy, Finance and Sustainability, Building Better Cities, and the Future of the Automotive Industry.

Website: www.globe2010.com

April

IAIA10: Transitioning to the Green Economy

Geneva, Switzerland (6-10 April 2010)

To transition toward green economies, assessments must first demonstrate the types of green investments that best fit local, national, and regional environments. Impact assessments have the power to influence and shape green policy, which will in turn play a major role in addressing the global crises. IAIA10 will focus on the following sectors that have the potential for sustainable green investment.

Website: <http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/default.aspx>

May

Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

Website: www.challengebibendum.com

June

Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010

Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

Website: www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

Website: www.oceancouncil.org

APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011: The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony. **Website:**

<http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

APPLY NOW! 2010-2011 Class of Acumen Fund Fellows: Acumen is looking for dedicated individuals with the practical skills, the creativity, the empathy and the leadership potential to affect change by leveraging market-based solutions to create social impact. Acumen Fund Fellows are drawn from a pool of talented, passionate people from all geographies, sectors, backgrounds and ethnicities. Deadline: November 5th, 2009.

Website: <http://www.acumenfund.org/get-involved/fellows-program/become-a-fellow.html>

Happy Planet Index

The Happy Planet Index reveals the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered. The index combines environmental impact with human well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which, country by country, people live long and happy lives. Learn about the ideas behind the HPI, how it is calculated, why we need it and what it can teach us.

Website: www.happyplanetindex.org/

African Economic Outlook

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined

through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

Website: www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zqi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Grameen Bank, <http://www.grameen-info.org/training/>

WWF One Planet Leaders

Zurich, Switzerland (16-18 November 2009)

One Planet Leaders is a flexible training programme that enables companies to understand and exploit the opportunities of sustainability. By bringing together world experts, the latest thinking and examples of best practice the Programme support delegates to develop the values and business processes that characterise sustainable companies.

Website:

http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/businesses/training/

Sustainable Tourism Criteria Announced

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

The Citizen Journalism in Africa Programme

The Hivos/SANGONeT Civil Journalism in Africa Project aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations to use online and offline citizen journalism as a means of publication, lobby, networking and knowledge

sharing with their constituencies. The focus will be on both traditional and new media. Special attention will be given to the development of sound and ethical journalistic, lobby, networking and publication skills. Supported by the European Union, the project will be implemented over the next three years.

Website: www.citizenjournalismafrica.org

The Grassroots Reporting Project

One of our goals at AfriGadget (www.afrigadget.com) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

This is possible by creating a network of field reporters who report on stories that meet the following criteria:

- Ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way.
- Interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways.
- Practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way.
- Entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Website: www.afrigadget.com/

Jobs and Careers

DevWire.eu - the Media Portal to EU Development Cooperation

The idea behind this site is to support journalists in their EU development coverage. This single entry point provides a comprehensive source of news and background - relevant, up to date and reliable.

Website: <http://www.devwire.eu>

Evidence-Based Policy in Development Network

This website aims to establish a worldwide community of practice for think tanks, policy research institutes and similar organisations working in international development, to promote more evidence-based, pro-poor development policies.

Website: <http://ebpdn.org>

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU

market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

ilissAfrica - Africa Virtual Library on the Internet

This web portal helps with tracking down relevant literature on a specific African topic or country. Users can search for books, anthologies, journal articles and Internet resources. Users are pointed to the relevant website or library where a book or journal can be found. The portal is a joint project of the University Library in Frankfurt and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg.

Website: <http://www.ilissafrika.de>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website:

<http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-

date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website:

www.diasporafricanforum.org

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

Website: <http://community.eldis.org>

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

Website: <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

Website: <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction.

Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

Websites: Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>

Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

Website: www.ledknowledge.org

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

Website: <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates

contact with key people.

Website: www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

Website: www.afdevinfo.com

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org

The Soul Beat

The Soul Beat shares a selection of programme experiences, strategic thinking documents, and materials related to the use of mobile telephones for social change in Africa. If you would like your organisation's communication work or research and resource documents to be featured on the Soul Beat Africa website and in The Soul Beat newsletters, please contact soulbeat@comminit.com

3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy

3D promotes collaboration amongst trade, development and human rights professionals, to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in ways that promote an equitable economy. 3D believes that the human rights framework provides strong tools for ensuring a more equitable economy.

Website: www.3dthree.org/en/index.php

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

AiDA launches an Interactive Map

AiDA is one of Development Gateway's aid management tools, which supports the aid effectiveness agenda by publishing information on development activities to help donors coordinate and harmonize their development efforts. With the use of an interactive map generated with technology from Google, development practitioners now have access to a geographical interface for information normally available through the AiDA Web site. Users can click on any country in the world and view a summary of the development activities that are taking place there.

Website: <http://aida.developmentgateway.org/aida/viewMap.do>

Trustive World-wide WiFi Access

The reality of WiFi is usually a fragmented service with different hotspot operators having their own log in methods, billing systems and coverage restricted to certain countries or even cities. The Dutch provider Trustive decided to overcome these challenges in order to improve this reality for the whole Trustive community. Following 5 years of heavy investment and the conclusion of strong roaming agreements with 70+ hotspot operators in 65+ countries, Trustive is now able to offer a seamless service that is both reliable and competitively priced across a unified and ever expanding network of 65,000 WiFi hotspots in 65+ countries, including 350+ airports.

Website: <http://tinyurl.com/trustive>

Fellowship Opportunity**Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

Website: www.sacca.biz

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting

the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website:

http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

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apknam@gmail.com

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2009 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

Website: www.echoinggreen.org/

Funding**The Africa Land Fund**

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

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Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment.

Website: www.google.org

Challenge

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. You can read more about the challenges here:

www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialedge.org

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)